

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 76

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 41

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 76—Relative to Breast Cancer Awareness and Prevention Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State April 28, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 76, Alquist. Breast Cancer Awareness and Prevention Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of October 2006 as “Breast Cancer Awareness and Prevention Month.”

WHEREAS, According to the American Cancer Society, with the exception of skin cancer, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among American women; and

WHEREAS, Breast cancer is second only to lung cancer as the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 21,600 women and 150 men are diagnosed with breast cancer in California each year — and of that number approximately 4,200 women and 35 men die of the disease; and

WHEREAS, The number of women who die of breast cancer each year in California constitutes one-tenth of the number of women to die of breast cancer in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The chance of a woman having invasive breast cancer in her lifetime is about 1 in 7, and the chance of dying from breast cancer is about 1 in 33; and

WHEREAS, The risk of getting breast cancer increases with age; and

WHEREAS, Earlier detection of breast cancer through mammography and self-examination increases chances of successful treatment; and

WHEREAS, With early detection and proper treatment, the five-year relative survival rate for breast cancer has increased from 72 percent in the 1940s to 97 percent today; however, once the cancer spreads beyond the breast, the survival rate drops to a mere 23 percent even with modern treatments and technologies; and

WHEREAS, Women in their 20s and 30s should have a clinical breast examination (CBE) as part of a regular examination by a health expert, preferably every three years, and women over 40 years of age should have a breast examination by a health expert every year; and

WHEREAS, Mammography is the single most effective method of detecting breast changes that may be cancer, long before physical symptoms, detectable lumps, or abnormalities can be felt; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of all Californians to join this continuing battle against breast cancer by promoting greater awareness of

the need for early detection, appropriate treatment, and the importance of finding a cure—as well as a means of prevention; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the month of October 2006 is hereby declared “Breast Cancer Awareness and Prevention Month” in California; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.